

**Lieutenant Governor  
Joseph E. Kernan, Director**  
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
TEL 317 232 8800  
[www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com)

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For More Information Contact: Jeff Harris, 317.232.2464  
Tyler Graves, 317.232.8873

### ***Kernan Announces Training Grants for Three Southern Indiana Businesses***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that three southern Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF).

"Grants like these allow companies to train their employees in the latest technology and skills, and that's a great investment," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "We are proud to be a partner in these training efforts because they not only keep our companies competitive, they also ensure that Hoosier workers are up-to-date on advancements in their fields."

- **Cook Airtomic**, Jeffersonville has been awarded a \$29,000 grant to train 41 incumbent and 26 new employees as part of a \$1 million investment in equipment upgrades. A leading designer and manufacturer of precision engineered seal rings, the company designs, researches and tests sealing solutions for the aerospace industry. Cook Airtomic will use the grant to train employees in computer skills, blue print reading and problem solving.
- **Decatur Mold Tool & Engineering, Inc.**, North Vernon, has been awarded a \$36,000 grant to train 126 existing employees following the company's \$1.4 million investment in new equipment. Founded in 1967, the company specializes in plastics injection molding and has a prototype facility that can customize any product. Decatur Mold will use the Commerce grant to train employees in basic math, geometry, algebra and machining.
- **Virtus, Inc.**, Batesville, has been awarded a \$9,500 grant to train five new and 38 existing employees following the company's \$70,000 investment in new equipment. Virtus, Inc. is a subsidiary of Virtus Limited of Dublin, Ireland. The company manufactures air cushion bladders, mattress products and other components that are used in the healthcare industry. Employees will pick up skills in forklift training, machine operation, computer operations and quality control as a result of the grant.

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## Skills Enhancement Fund/add 1

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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